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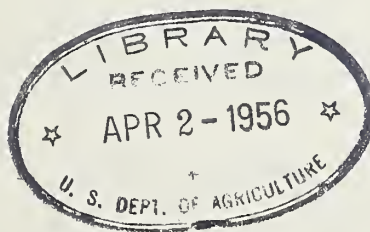
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HIGHLIGHTS

of the

ACCELERATED BRUCELLOSIS ERADICATION

PROGRAM //



52

November 1954 //

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

The brucellosis program operates under the Act of May 29, 1884, directing the Secretary of Agriculture to investigate and report on the causes and treatment of animal diseases. It also instructs him "to prepare such rules and regulations as he may deem necessary for the speedy and effectual suppression and extirpation of [dangerous, contagious, infectious, and communicable] diseases, and to certify such rules and regulations to the executive authority of each State and Territory, and invite said authorities to cooperate in the execution and enforcement of this act."

This passage established the principle of Federal-State cooperation in dealing with animal diseases, and empowered the Secretary to issue regulations having the effect of law.

In July 1934, the brucellosis eradication campaign was started in combination with a cattle-reduction program. The first separate Congressional legislation on brucellosis was passed in 1944. Additional legislation is passed and amended regulations issued from time to time.

THE ACCELERATED PROGRAM

There's nothing new about this ACCELERATED program--except that it's bigger! Some changes in emphasis have been made--but the objective is the same: WIPE OUT BRUCELLOSIS!

Now we can get on with the job--FASTER. Congress has provided more Federal funds . . . Many States have increased funds for this cooperative Federal-State program--some far exceeding the traditional half.

Here is the picture for this year:

<u>Regular Federal funds</u>	. . . Nearly \$4,000,000
<u>ACCELERATED Federal funds</u>	. . . \$15,000,000
<u>State funds</u>	. . . Approximately \$10,000,000

THERE IS GOOD REASON FOR STEPPING UP THE PROGRAM NOW!
We've got brucellosis on the run. Reactors in tested herds have gone down to 2.6 percent . . . from 3.4 percent of a year ago . . . and from 4.7 percent right after World War II.

We are at the point NOW where we were in the TB campaign when we began the big push to drive the incidence of tuberculosis down below the 1 percent mark.

We can do the same thing with brucellosis. It's simple logic--and good economics--to wipe out brucellosis NOW!

THE INDEMNITY PROGRAM

The ACCELERATED program is the direct result of Congressional action in providing special funds for use in "further suppressing and eradicating brucellosis in cattle." Two modifications have been made in indemnity payments--both reflecting the active interest of the Congress:

First: Maximum Federal indemnity payments are restored for owners whose cattle are destroyed because of brucellosis -- \$25 for grades, \$50 for purebreds.

Second: States with cooperative agreements are no longer required to match Federal indemnity payments to owners.

HOWEVER these restrictions still apply to Federal indemnities:

- (1) In no case shall the Federal indemnity exceed one-third of the owner's loss between market and salvage prices.

- (2) The Federal government shall not pay indemnities in States where cooperating livestock sanitary officials request the program be conducted without indemnity payments.
- (3) A farmer must have his herd in one of the approved plans before he can receive an indemnity payment.

Secretary of Agriculture Benson, when he announced the ACCELERATED program, emphasized this point: The additional funds will be spent to further a sound program of brucellosis eradication.

IT'S A COOPERATIVE JOB

TEAMWORK supplies the power behind the national brucellosis program! It's a team made up of the U.S. Department of Agriculture . . . State Departments of Agriculture . . . Cooperative Extension Services . . . and livestock owners.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture and 46 States and 2 Territories are working together under cooperative agreements to eradicate brucellosis. This program is "cooperative in every particular."

Under these agreements--

The U.S. Department of Agriculture

- (1) Assigns a veterinarian to work in the State.
- (2) Assigns additional personnel when justified by circumstances and the availability of funds.
- (3) Pays the salaries and expenses of U.S. Department of Agriculture personnel working in the State.
- (4) Furnishes supplies and equipment.
- (5) Shares with the State in the payment of indemnities for animals slaughtered in course of the program.

The State Department of Agriculture

- (1) Assigns veterinarians and other personnel to the work.
- (2) Furnishes other supplies and equipment.
- (3) Encourages and promotes uniform methods for establishing and keeping herds certified brucellosis-free.
- (4) Enforces State laws and regulations governing the handling of reactor cattle.
- (5) Authorizes Federal veterinarians to work in all phases of the program within the State.

Apart from the agreements--

Extension Service Participation

The Cooperative Extension Services, in carrying out their educational responsibilities, participate in--

- (1) Disseminating information about brucellosis and its control.
- (2) Developing and conducting State and local educational programs.
- (3) Organizing State and local groups to enlist livestock owners in the eradication campaign.

This is the framework. But it can only be put into action with the complete cooperation of the fourth member of the team--the livestock owner. It's up to the farmers with infected herds to put the eradication program to work on their farms . . . and encourage their neighbors to join the effort of testing and disposing of reactors . . . to wipe out brucellosis!

NATIONAL BRUCELLOSIS COMMITTEE SUPPORT

Growing support of the national brucellosis campaign paves the way for the ACCELERATED program. That support is due largely to the work of the National Brucellosis Committee.

The Committee was organized in 1950 to COORDINATE education, promotion, and continued intensive research to put an end to brucellosis. It is composed of representatives of 27 national organizations from the agricultural and food processing industries and the educational, scientific, and medical professions, including State and Federal agencies.

HOW THE PROGRAM IS PUT TO WORK

THE BRUCELLOSIS eradication program is projected on a State basis.

The States, in cooperation with Federal veterinarians, plan the State eradication program . . . and decide upon the methods that will be used to achieve the objectives. State committees, made up of representative officials and livestock owners, serve in an advisory capacity.

Some States set dates for reaching certain stages in their campaign to wipe out brucellosis. For example: A State will set up a target date for all grade A dairy herds to be operating under Plan A . . . or establish a date when only milk from brucellosis-free herds will be accepted for sale. By enforcing these dates, the State cuts down the time it takes to become modified certified brucellosis-free.

The area approach is emphasized in the eradication program. A brucellosis-free herd in an area of infection can't be expected to stay free very long. That's why States plan their intensive programs area by area . . . or county by county. When infection is once cleaned out of an entire area, it's easier to keep it clean.

After an area has been decided upon, then THE WORK BEGINS. Enough workers are made available to test every herd. How soon the reactor cattle are disposed of will depend upon the plan agreed upon in the individual State. Once an area has been tested, the workers move on to the next field of action . . . until the entire State has been tested . . . and the infected animals removed.

TESTING LOCATES INFECTION

YOU can't fight an enemy until you know where he is! If we are going to wipe out brucellosis we must find it FIRST--all of it. The longer a pocket of infection remains undetected, the stronger it grows . . . and the wider it spreads.

Testing cattle to locate reactors is the first important step in eradicating brucellosis.

We have two means of testing . . . and both are valuable to the eradication program: (1) The ring test makes it possible to screen entire herds and areas--quickly and economically--to detect infection. (2) The blood test is used to locate individual reactors.

The ring test is most effective when it's used on a composite sample of fresh, unhomogenized whole milk or diluted cream from 5 to 12 cows. Stained antigen is added to the sample. If Brucella antibodies are present, the antigen clumps and forms a bluish-purple ring around the cream line. If antibodies are not present, the stained antigen stays in the milk and gives it a blue tint . . . the cream remains normal in color. The ring test speeds the rate of testing herds . . . greatly expands the testing capacity of limited personnel . . . cuts the cost of the testing operation.

But the ring test is not always reliable when used on the milk from a single cow. Once the presence of brucellosis in a herd is determined by the ring test, then we must depend upon the blood test to find infected individuals. The blood test will show if antibodies, known as agglutinins, are in the blood of an individual animal. If agglutinins are found in the blood sample, we know the animal is or has been recently infected. Then we've found the enemy--BRUCELOSIS. We should get rid of it as quickly as possible . . . before it grows and spreads!

FOUR PLANS ARE RECOGNIZED

THE NATIONAL brucellosis program recognizes four plans--all aimed at the complete eradication of the disease . . . Why four plans? . . . Because brucellosis is found under varying conditions. The plans are adapted to meet those conditions.

State authorities decide which of the four plans . . . or combinations of them . . . best suit their conditions.

Plan A is the quickest and most direct method for wiping out brucellosis . . . and the objective of the eradication program is to put Plan A into operation as soon as possible. The other three plans operate to reduce infection . . . so that Plan A will be economically practical.

PLAN A--Test cattle, mark reactors with permanent identification, move reactors promptly to slaughter, and clean and disinfect the premises. Calves may or may not be vaccinated.

PLAN B--Test cattle, mark reactors with permanent identification and place them under quarantine until they can be removed from the farm. Vaccinate calves. (Reactors may be retained for a period not to exceed 3 years.)

PLAN C--Vaccinate calves only. This plan is limited to herds from which untested and unvaccinated breeding cattle can be moved only under permit issued by State livestock sanitary officials.

PLAN D--Vaccinate all nonreactor breeding cattle within 10 days after completion of test and mark all reactors with permanent identification. This plan can be used only after written approval of cooperating State and Federal agencies and is permitted as an emergency measure only in herds where there is evidence of rapid spread of the disease.

PRACTICING VETERINARIANS PLAY A BIG PART

THE BRUCELLOSIS eradication program will be ACCELERATED without adding materially to Federal personnel. That's possible because of the cooperation of practicing veterinarians.

Local veterinarians have played a big part in testing and vaccinating ever since the brucellosis program began--20 years ago. Without their assistance progress would have been seriously handicapped.

Practicing veterinarians have frequently worked with the program in the past to the disadvantage of their own practice. They could only be paid on a per diem basis. Under this system of payment, a veterinarian who was to be paid for testing a herd as part of the official program could not tend his private practice on that day. He was paid from program funds for a full day.

Pay regulations have been amended. NOW the United States Department of Agriculture can pay local veterinarians for testing and vaccination on a per herd or per head basis. Fees are established in line with the accepted level of the area.

With this change in pay regulations, we can look forward to even greater participation in the eradication program by practicing veterinarians . . . without weakening the veterinary service of local communities.

JOB AHEAD--ONE OF ORGANIZATION

If we are to get this job done . . . we will have to test 2 cows for every cow tested before . . . we will have to get twice as many herds under the ring test . . . we will have to encourage farmers everywhere to come in to the program under an approved plan, and, of course, get rid of their reactors.

One big job is organizing and using veterinary manpower--effectively. This is an administrative task for the Federal-State authorities charged with the responsibility of the program. Hand-in-hand with this "inside" part of the program is an "outside" job--that of seeking and keeping cooperation of livestock owners. For veterinarians to work effectively, the people with whom they work must be informed. That is why we need a concurrent program of information and education.

Most States that are doing good jobs now operate under a coordinated plan. State and county brucellosis committees, working with Cooperative Extension agents, are functioning to keep the educational ball rolling as well as organizing for carrying out program measures.

State committees are made up of livestock and dairy producers and other groups interested in the program--such as farm and livestock organizations . . . Extension Service . . . State and local veterinary organizations . . . sanitary officials . . . women's groups . . . and the public health service. State Extension Directors are facilitating the organization of these committees.

State committees are usually responsible for encouraging the development of county or local committees, made up of representative groups of the area, similar to those at the State level.

If no action has been taken in a county, the county agricultural agent and home demonstration agent can assist by calling interested groups together to organize the committee. The National Brucellosis Committee recommends that "procedures for brucellosis eradication should be made a regular Extension Service project in all counties or areas where brucellosis exists." One good approach is to hold meetings with all livestock producers in the area to get their suggestions and approval of the proposed programs and procedures.

The following county leaders should be invited to participate:

- Farm organization representatives
- Women's committee chairmen
- County nurse
- DHIA supervisors
- Representatives of the county health council
- Artificial insemination associations
- Vocational agriculture teachers

Board of supervisors

Local veterinarians, editors, legislators, and others concerned with human and animal health.

In areas with heavy livestock populations, township committees may be a desirable aid in carrying out the same program on a community basis. Sometimes two or three key leaders are enough. In other cases, five or six are necessary to enlist the participation of all livestock owners in a township.

WHAT KIND OF AN EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM?

NO ONE has a complete answer to the kind of an educational program needed. But some points are clear--

Information and education must be geared to local operations where the job is being done. The herd owner needs to know "why" the program is necessary, "how" it is carried out, and "who" does it. As the program progresses he also needs to know "when," "what," and "where" . . . so he will be in a better position to cooperate. Timing is important. As target dates for testing are set up in the local areas, an organized plan of information and education should precede . . . and then follow as the testing program is carried out.

Farmers will want to know the full details on what the program is . . . when they can expect veterinary inspectors on their farms . . . and just how the testing program will be carried out.

Some States are far advanced toward eradicating brucellosis. They are actively engaged in brucellosis education. Those nearing a modified certified status will need a different kind of educational program from States less advanced in the fight against brucellosis. Other program factors vary, too. One State produces beef cattle primarily, another has a large dairy cattle population. Thus, educational plans made at the State level need to be better localized to meet the specific requirements of the program at the grassroots.

What Is Working

Many States are doing good jobs with well-planned educational programs coordinated with active eradication campaigns. North Carolina, New Hampshire, and Maine are modified certified brucellosis-free. Other States are well on the way.

Here's an example of good informational support of an active educational program being conducted in one State as a cooperative effort by the State Livestock Sanitary Board; the Cooperative Extension Service; the University; and the office of the Federal veterinarian:

. . . 50,000 copies of the folder "WIPE OUT BRUCELLOSIS" distributed. Many papers printed it in full.

- . . . Fill-in press stories and radio scripts giving background information supplied to county agents.
- . . . Progress reports distributed to newspapers throughout the State.
- . . . Progress reports supplied by county agents for local papers and radio stations.
- . . . Releases made to daily newspapers, radio stations, magazines, and other media.
- . . . Nineteen copies of the movie "Triple Threat of Brucellosis" circulated during the height of the campaign. In one month it was shown to 351 different audiences.
- . . . Fifteen copies of a set of motion picture slides with lecture notes circulated or sold. The notes also served as material for speeches and radio talks.
- . . . Special charts prepared for speakers who appeared regularly at meetings throughout the State.
- . . . Radio effort centered on the county level with special progress reports on State-wide stations.
- . . . Weekly series of "Radio Shorts" sent to all stations.
- . . . Radio transcription on the ring test circulated throughout the State.
- . . . Regular television programs used.

AVAILABLE EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS

- (1) Leaflet No. 369, "Wipe Out Brucellosis," explains what brucellosis is, what it does, and what can be done to combat it. Single or bulk copies available from Agricultural Research Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington 25, D.C.
- (2) Movie, "Triple Threat of Brucellosis," in color or black-and white, 27 minutes, cleared for use on television. Tells the story of brucellosis and its effect on cattle, swine, and goats, as well as human beings. Available through cooperating film libraries in each State, usually handled through the State Agricultural Extension Service. May be purchased in color or black-and-white in 16-mm. size from United World Films, Inc., 1445 Park Avenue, New York 29, N.Y.
- (3) Exhibits, available from the Office of Information, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington 25, D.C., on loan basis; the borrower pays

transportation costs: (a) Four cardboard panels which lock together to form a display suitable to show on a table. Limited supply. Width 5'8", depth 2', height 28". Encourages owners of beef and dairy cattle to cooperate with State and Federal agencies in a campaign to eradicate brucellosis. It shows the sources of infection, symptoms, prevention, and relation of brucellosis to human health. (b) Three panels, 22 by 24 feet, shipping weight 1,990 pounds, requiring 1,800 watts electric current for display. Only one available. Center panel animated. Shows that brucellosis, uncontrolled, can be a menace to the dairy herd, the beef herd, and to human beings.

- (4) Leaflet No. 42 in Health Series, "Undulant Fever," describes the effect of the disease on human health. Available in single copies from the Public Inquiries Branch, Public Health Service, Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, Washington 25, D.C. Bulk copies for sale by Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington 25, D.C.



